REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

ONE YEAR OPTION
900+ Clock Hour Programs - Medical Assisting

Background:

To provide another option for adult students to apply prior learning toward a degree, Ohio legislators established what has come to be known as the One-Year-Option through Section 363.120 House Bill 59 of the 130th General Assembly. The Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, was tasked to establish a One-Year Option credit articulation system in which graduates of Ohio's adult career-technical institutions who complete a 900-hour program of study AND obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor will be able to receive 30 technical semester credit hours toward a technical degree upon enrollment in a public institution of higher education. The Chancellor was also to recommend a process to award proportional semester credit hours for adult career-technical institution students who complete a program of study between 600 and 899 hours AND obtain an industry-recognized credential approved by the Chancellor. The Chancellor convened a broad group of stakeholders to develop a system of articulation for the One Year Option that was presented in a report to the legislature called, *"Getting to 30: Establishing a One Year Option Credit Articulation System for Ohio."*

In order to implement the system of articulation developed with the stakeholders as well as address accreditation requirements for degree granting institutions, the Chancellor convened Credit Affirmation Teams (CATs) to conduct a peer review of programs and certifications for affirmation for a block of 30 semester hours of technical credit. The CATs were comprised of faculty and administrators from Ohio Technical Centers (OTCs) and an equal number from public degree granting colleges and universities in Ohio. The CATs were organized by four discipline clusters: Health and Allied Health, Building and Industrial Technology, Business and Information Technology, and Services. They were charged with reviewing the certifications and, if necessary, program content, to affirm that students completing the selected program at an Ohio Technical Center and earned approved certifications had demonstrated competencies equivalent to 30 semester hours of technical credit. This technical credit would then be granted, as a block, upon enrollment in a degree granting institution. Additional subject matter experts were consulted when core team members did not have sufficient content knowledge of the program being reviewed.

Recommendation

As detailed in the attached template, the Health and Allied Health Credit Affirmation Team recommends that students will be eligible for a block of 30 semester hours of technical credit towards an *Associate of Technical Studies in Health and Allied Health Technology* when:

- the student has successfully completed a 900+ clock hour program in Medical Assisting at an Ohio Technical Center.

And currently holds **ONE** of the following credentials:

- American Medical Technologists (AMT) Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)
- American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)
- National Healthcareer Association (NHA) Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)

Please note all credentials must be current, valid, and in good standing.

End of Comment Period: July 17, 2015 at 2:00 pm
No comments received, recommend approval

RECOMMENDATION

The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has verified that this pathway has met the standards and requirements of the Ohio Board of Regents.

SDavidson   7/22/15

Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs   **Date**

APPROVAL

John Carey   7/30/15

John Carey, Chancellor   **Date**

Preamble

After a comprehensive review, the team agreed that a student who successfully completes one of the following three medical assisting credentials
1) Registered Medical Assistant (RMA)
2) Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)
3) Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)

And completes a 900 or more clock hour program at an Ohio Technical Center qualifies for thirty technical credits at a public degree-granting college or university in Ohio.

The Program Affirmation Template is designed to provide a common matrix for a peer review process acceptable to the Higher Learning Commission to soundly affirm award 30 semester hours of technical credit for Ohio Technical Center graduates who are eligible for the One Year Option. The template should be completed for every program/subject and signed by the co-chairs of each of the four cluster program areas for every Industry-recognized credential and program reviewed.

Please note: All Ohio Technical Centers must be accredited by one of the following: Council on Occupational Education (COE) and/or Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

Program Name: Medical Assisting **CIP Code:** 51.0801	**Cluster** ☐ Business & Information Technologies ☑ Health/Allied Health ☐ Industrial Trades ☐ Service Industries & Agriculture	
STEP ONE: CREDENTIAL REVIEW **Pathway 1**		
	Details/Explanation	**Comments**
Primary Industry Credential (if there are competing certifications complete page multiple times)	**Name:** American Medical Technologists (AMT) Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) **Type:** ☐ License ☐ Registry ☑ Certification	Initial certification is valid for 3 years. Candidates may maintain certification by participating in a Certification Continuation Program through AMT. Details may be found here.
Program requirements by credentialing body.	Further information regarding eligibility requirements can be found here. There are five (5) Pathways to RMA credentialing, each with	

different requirements. To be eligible to sit for the RMA credential students must meet requirements for one of the five pathways.

Pathway 1:

Applicant shall be a recent graduate of, or be scheduled to graduate from, an accredited medical assisting program.

- Accredited program: Program or institution is accredited by a regional or national accreditation agency approved by the US Department of Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or otherwise approved by the AMT Board of Directors.
- All training programs should include a minimum of 720 program clock hours (or equivalent) in medical assisting, including a clinical externship of no less than 160 hours in duration (or required by state law).
- Applicants must have graduated from their academic program(s) within the past four years. Applicants whose date of graduation is four years or more prior to the date of their application must also provide evidence of relevant work experience for at least three of the last five years.

Pathway 2:

Applicant shall be a recent graduate of, or be scheduled to graduate from, a formal medical services training program of the United States Armed Forces.

- Applicants must have graduated from their academic program(s) within the past four years. Applicants whose date of graduation is four years or more prior to the date of their application must also provide evidence of relevant work experience for at least three of the last five years.

Pathway 3:

Applicant shall have been employed as a medical assistant for a minimum of five out of the last seven years, no more than two years of which may have been as an instructor in a post- secondary medical assistant program. Work experience must include both clinical and administrative duties. Proof of high school graduation (or equivalent) is required.

- All work experience is assumed to be full-time. Full-time

	experience is defined as working an average of 40 hours/week (may be a combination of part-time settings). **Pathway 4:** Applicant shall be currently instructing in an accredited medical assisting program, shall have completed a course of instruction in a healthcare discipline related to medical assisting, and shall have a minimum of five years of teaching experience in a medical assisting discipline that encompasses a range of both clinical and administrative competencies that are broadly representative of core medical assisting duties. **An applicant, who has less than five years of teaching experience, but more than one year, shall provide documentation of at least three years of full-time clinical work experience in a healthcare profession in which the scope of practice is commensurate with, or exceeds, the medical assisting scope of practice. **Pathway 5:** Applicant shall have taken and passed another certification organization's generalist examination for medical assisting, provided that the organization's exam has been approved by the AMT Board of Directors and that the applicant can meet eligibility Routes 1, 2, 3 or 4. No examination is required.	
Hour Requirements (includes any instructional, lab/practice hours, or internship hours).	The American Medical Technologists (AMT) states that all training programs should include a minimum of 720 Program clock hours (or equivalent) in medical assisting, including a clinical externship of no less than 160 hours in duration (or required by state law).	

Competencies demonstrated by credential attainment.	I. *General Medical Assisting Knowledge* 41%
	     a. Anatomy and physiology
	     b. Medical terminology
	     c. Medical law
	     d. Medical ethics
	     e. Human relations
	     f. Patient education
	 II. *Administrative Medical Assisting* 24%
	     a. Insurance	

	b. Finance and bookkeeping
	c. Medical receptionist / secretarial / clerical
	III. *Clinical Medical Assisting* 35%
	    a. Asepsis
	    b. Sterilization
	    c. Instruments
	    d. Vital signs and mensurations
	    e. Physical examinations
	    f. Clinical pharmacology
	    g. Minor surgery
	    h. Therapeutic modalities
	    i. Laboratory procedures
	    j. Electrocardiography (ECG)
	    k. First aid and emergency response
	More detailed information regarding competencies can be found at the following links:
	• http://www.americanmedtech.org/Portals/0/PDF/Get%20Cert/Prepare%20for%20Exam/RMA%20Content%20Outline%20Detail.pdf
	• http://www.americanmedtech.org/Portals/0/PDF/Get%20Cert/Prepare%20for%20Exam/RMA%20Content%20Outline.pdf
	• http://www.americanmedtech.org/Portals/0/PDF/Get%20Cert/Prepare%20for%20Exam/RMA-REF-2012-09.pdf	

Rationale:	1) In order to be eligible to sit for the certification exam, candidates must be a recent graduate of an accredited Medical Assistant training program or one that has been approved by the AMT board.
	  • The accreditors have direct input on the curriculum, competencies, instructional methods, and clinical externship requirements of these Medical Assistant training programs.
	  • AMT closely examines the curriculum, competencies, instructional methods, and clinical externship components of any training program before approval.
	  • AMT requires that any training program be at least 720 clock hours in length and include a minimum of 160 clinical externship hours.
	
	2) Other routes of eligibility for the RMA certification exam are equally stringent and verified by AMT.
	
	3) The credentialing exam is valid, reliable, and peer-reviewed regularly to ensure that the content accurately measures the intended competencies.	

4) AMT is approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) which further ensures the validity and reliability of the RMA exam.

5) The RMA exam is administered by a secure, well-respected, third-party testing company (Pearson VUE) and is primarily delivered in a computer-based format to increase security & better maintain up-to-date content delivery.

6) The competencies measured by the RMA exam are a result of job-analysis studies and frequent peer-review and thus directly reflect the industry standards of the Medical Assistant profession.

7) In order to maintain RMA certification, individuals must complete 30 credit hours of continuing education every 3 years.
   - CE programming must be in areas that are relevant to the Medical Assisting occupation.

8) The RMA credential fulfills the requirements of federal legislation known as the "Meaningful Use Rule" set forth by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) which requires certification of medical assistants who use computerized-physician order entry.

Taking the reliability of the exam, rigor of the program, and the review of content, the Health Credit Affirmation Team believes that attaining the RMA credential following completion of a 900+ hour Ohio Technical Center Medical Assisting program to be equivalent to a block of 30 technical credits for the One Year Option.

-OR-

Program Name: Medical Assistant **CIP Code:** 51.0801	**Cluster** ☐ Business & Information Technologies ☑ Health/Allied Health ☐ Industrial Trades ☐ Service Industries & Agriculture	
	STEP ONE: CREDENTIAL REVIEW Pathway 2	
	Details/Explanation	**Comments**
Primary Industry Credential (if there are competing certifications complete page multiple	**Name:** American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) **Type:**	Initial certification is valid for 60 months and individuals can recertify by completing CEUs or re-testing. More information can be found here.

times)	☐ License ☐ Registry ☑ Certification	

Description of essential elements of primary credential.	Eligibility information can be found at the following links:
	• http://www.aama-ntl.org/cma-aama-exam/application-steps/eligibility
	• http://www.aama-ntl.org/docs/default-source/cma-exam/exam-eligibility.pdf?sfvrsn=8
	
	The following requirements must be met to be eligible to sit for certification.
	1) The candidate must have graduated from or be about to complete a medical assisting program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).
	  • Completing students may take the CMA (AAMA) Exam no more than 30 days prior to completing their formal education and practicum.
	  • Recent graduates are those who apply for the exam within 12 months of graduation
	  • Non-recent graduates are those who apply for the exam 12 months or more after graduating, but not more than 60 months after completion. These individuals must provide an official transcript from their program.
	2) The candidate has not pled guilty or been found guilty of a felony
	3) The candidate has not had a professional license, registration, or certification revoked, suspended, or subjected to probationary conditions by a regulatory authority or certification board.
		More information regarding the approved CAAHEP or ABHES accredited programs can be found here.

Hour Requirements (includes any instructional, lab/practice hours, or internship	There are no specific hour requirements set by the American Association of Medical Assistants.	

hours).		
Competencies demonstrated by credential attainment.	Detailed information regarding the competencies assessed by the CMA credential can be found here. I. General • Psychology • Communication • Professionalism • Medical Law/Regulatory Guidelines • Medical Ethics • Risk Management, Quality Assurance, and Safety • Medical Terminology II. Administrative • Medical Reception • Patient Navigator/Advocate • Establish Patient Medical Record • Scheduling Appointments • Practice Finances III. Clinical • Anatomy and Physiology • Infection Control • Patient Intake and Documentation of Care • Patient Preparation and Assisting the Provider • Nutrition • Collecting and Processing Specimens • Diagnostic Testing • Pharmacology • Emergency Management/Basic First Aid	
Rationale:	1) Candidates must be a recent graduate of a CAAHEP or ABHES accredited Medical Assistant training program to be eligible to sit for certification. • Both of these accreditors have direct input on the curriculum, competencies, instructional methods, and clinical externship requirements of these Medical Assistant training programs. 2) The credentialing exam is valid, reliable, and peer-reviewed regularly to ensure that the content accurately measures	

the intended competencies.

3) AAMA is approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) which further ensures the validity and reliability of the CMA exam.

4) The CMA exam is administered by a secure, well respected, third-party testing company (Prometric) and is primarily delivered in computer-based format to increase security and better maintain up-to-date content delivery.

5) The competencies measured by the CMA exam are a result of job-analysis studies and frequent peer-review and thus directly reflect the industry standards of the Medical Assistant profession.

6) In order to maintain CMA certification, individuals must complete 60 credit hours of AAMA approved continuing education (CE) every 5 years.
   - CE programming must be in areas that are relevant to the Medical Assisting occupation including: 10 hours of administrative duties, 10 hours of clinical duties, and 10 hours of general medical assisting knowledge.

The CMA credential fulfills the requirements of federal legislation known as the "Meaningful Use Rule" set forth by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) which requires certification of medical assistants who use computerized-physician order entry.

Taking the reliability of the exam, rigor of the program, and the review of content, the Health Credit Affirmation Team believes that attaining the CMA credential following completion of a 900+ hour Ohio Technical Center Medical Assisting program to be equivalent to a block of 30 technical credits for the One Year Option.

-OR-

Program Name: Medical Assistant	Cluster
	☐ Business & Information Technologies
	☑ Health/Allied Health
CIP Code:	☐ Industrial Trades
51.0801	☐ Service Industries & Agriculture

STEP ONE: CREDENTIAL REVIEW		
Pathway 3		
	Details/Explanation	**Comments**
Primary Industry	**Name:** National Healthcareer Association Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)	Initial certification is valid for 2 years. Individuals may re-certify by completing 10 hours of CEs every

Credential (if there are competing certifications complete page multiple times)	**Type:** ☐ License ☐ Registry ☑ Certification	2 years. More information can be found here.
Description of essential elements of primary credential.	To be eligible to earn an NHA certification, the individual must meet both of the following requirements: 1) Possess a High School Diploma, or the equivalent. 2) Have successfully completed a training program or one year of work experience within the field. Candidates must be able to provide written proof of training or experience and/or documentation of education completion upon request. There is no specific time frame a candidate must test within once the training or work experience eligibility requirement has been met. Additional eligibility requirements for the certification can be found here.	
Hour Requirements (includes any instructional, lab/practice hours, or internship hours).	There are no specific hour requirements set by the National Healthcareer Association.	
Competencies demonstrated by credential attainment.	Competencies demonstrated by credential attainment include: • Patient Care • Communication • Office Administration • Medical Law and Ethics • Phlebotomy • EKG Monitoring A detailed list of the competencies assessed by the CCMA credential can be found here.	
Rationale:	1) Candidates must be a recent graduate of a Medical Assistant training program to be eligible to sit for certification.	

- NHA reviews transcript of the program to ensure acceptable content of training program

2) The credentialing exam is valid, reliable, and peer-reviewed regularly to ensure that the content accurately measures the intended competencies.

3) NHA is approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) which further ensures the validity and reliability of the CCMA exam.

4) The CCMA exam is administered by a secure, well respected third-party testing company (Prometric) or under the supervision of NHA-trained proctors on-site. Additionally, the exam is electronically monitored by the testing company. The exam is primarily delivered in computer-based format to increase security and better maintain up-to-date content delivery.

5) The competencies measured by the CCMA exam are a result of job-analysis studies and frequent peer-review and thus directly reflect the industry standards of the Medical Assistant profession.

6) In order to maintain CCMA certification, individuals must complete 10 credit hours of approved continuing education (CE) every 2 years.
   a. CE programming must be in areas that are relevant to the Medical Assisting occupation and may be NHA-sponsored or earned through a third party.

7) The CCMA credential fulfills the requirements of federal legislation known as the "Meaningful Use Rule" set forth by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) which requires certification of medical assistants who use computerized-physician order entry.

Taking the reliability of the exam, rigor of the program, and the review of content, the Health Credit Affirmation Team believes that attaining the CCMA credential following completion of a 900+ hour Ohio Technical Center Medical Assisting program to be equivalent to a block of 30 technical credits for the One Year Option.

ONLY IF NECESSARY TO AFFIRM 30 CREDITS----STEP TWO: PROGRAM-RELATED COMPETENCIES OBTAINED OUTSIDE OF PRIMARY CREDENTIAL		
	Details/Explanation	**Comments**
Additional related complementary		

credential(s) or badge(s) (e.g. OSHA 10, CPR).	
Competencies demonstrated by additional credential attainment.	
Description of additional program elements beyond primary credential.	
Program related competencies/learning outcomes outside of credential(s). Include how competencies are demonstrated.	
Other Parameters of Competency.	

Related Programs as of Fall 2015:	**Ohio Technical Center**	**Program Name**	**Clock Hours**
	Alliance City School District	Medical Assisting	900
	Alliance City School District	Diversified Health Technology	900
	Apollo Career Center	Medical Assistant	900
	Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center	Medical Assisting	900
	Buckeye Career Center	Medical Assisting	900
	Butler Technology & Career Development Schools	Medical Assisting	900
	Canton City School District	Medical Assistant	1020
	Career and Technology Educational Centers	Medical Assisting	930
	Collins Career Center	Medical Assisting	1100
	EHOVE Career Center	Medical Assistant	900
	Knox County Career Center	Medical Assistant	920
	Lorain County Career Center	Medical Assisting	956
	Mahoning County Career and Technical Center	Medical Assistant	1080
	Medina County Career Center	Medical Assisting	910

	Miami Valley Career Technology Center	Medical Assisting	900
	Pickaway-Ross Career Center	Medical Assisting	929
	Polaris Career Center	Medical Assisting	946
	Portage Lakes Career Center	Medical Assisting	900
	Sandusky City School District	Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy	900
	Tri-County Career Center	Medical Assisting Technology	1350
	Trumbull Career and Technical Center	Medical Assistant	1084
	Vantage Career Center	Medical Assistant	1000
	Warren County Career Center	Medical Assistant	900
	Washington County Career Center	Medical Assistant	900
	Wayne County Schools Career Center	Medical Assisting	900

Committee Members and Subject Matter Experts:	**Name**	**Role**	**Institution**
	Chad Brown	Co-Chair	Zane State College
	Kelly Darney	Co-Chair	Columbiana County Career & Technical Center
	Darline Foltz	Member	University of Cincinnati: Clermont College
	Stacy Franks King	Member	Tri-County Adult Career Center
	Jennifer Hall	Member	Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
	Emeline Kelly	Member	Tri-Rivers Career Center
	Barbara Mikuszewski	Member	Cuyahoga Community College
	Deborah Neal	Member	Scioto County Career Technical Center
	Jami Nininger	Member	Knox County Career Center
	Kathy Wilcox	Member	Clark State Community College
	Susan Nelson	Subject Matter Expert	Tri-County Adult Career Center

OTHER COMMENTS.

AFFIRMED NUMBER OF TECHNICAL BLOCK CREDITS	30 semester hours	**LENGTH OF TIME CREDENTIAL CAN BE USED FOR ONE-YEAR OPTION:** Must have completed a 900+ hour Medical Assisting program at an Ohio Technical Center and must hold one of the following certifications. 1) Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) 2) Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)

	3) Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) Please note these certifications must be current, valid, and in good standing.

Co-chair signatures:

Chad Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President
Zane State College

Kelly Darney, Adult Education Director
Columbiana County Career & Technical Center

Date: 5/26/2015

Appendix 1: Rationale for not accepting the Nationally Registered Certified Medical Assistant (NRCMA) certification

The Health Credit Affirmation Team also reviewed the Nationally Registered Certified Medical Assistant (NRCMA) certification, as developed by the National Association of Health Professionals (NAHP). The Health Credit Affirmation team determined that for the reasons stated below, the team could not soundly affirm college credit for the NRCMA certification.

1) Training programs used to prepare for this credentialing exam are not standardized or monitored by any specific accreditors. The NAHP reviews the programs, but does not outline any specific requirements regarding hours, competencies, or practical experience.
   - There are many alternative eligibility routes, none of which were up to the standards of the Credit Affirmation team. Instead, it appears that almost anyone would be eligible to sit for the NRCMA exam.
2) The credentialing exam does NOT appear to be specific to the Medical Assisting profession. The Credit Affirmation Team did not believe that there was sufficient weight given to the more important Medical Assisting competencies such as Office Procedures and Medical Procedures;
   - The competencies covered by the NRCMA exam are:
     i. Anatomy and Physiology 9%
     ii. Body planes 2.5%
     iii. Disease 7.5%
     iv. Insurance 6%
     v. Laboratory 15%
     vi. Law & Ethics 3.5%
     vii. Medical Procedures 15%
     viii. Medical Terminology 25%

      ix. Nutrition 3.5%

       x. Office Procedures 7%

      xi. Pharmacology 6%

- The credentialing exam is created by a group of educators, employers, and health care professionals, but the same group of test developers create exams for Phlebotomy, Surgical Technologists, Pharmacy Technicians, Billing & Coding professionals, and other allied health technologies. It appears to the group that the tests for each technology are too similar to one another.
- Upon speaking to a representative from the NAHP, it became clear that a primary goal of this credential is to offer a student a fast-track to multiple recognized credentials. This re-affirmed the Credit Affirmation Team's suspicions.

3) The NAHP is not recognized by any third-party accreditation agencies (such as NCCA or ICE) that could validate their credential or credentialing exam.

4) The NRCMA exam is not administered in a secure environment. Proctors are registered with the NAHP, but are not monitored or rigorously trained in any way. Candidates may take their exams at a training facility or their place of employment.
- Exams are paper & pencil only, which the Credit Affirmation team believes to be less secure than a computer-based exam.

5) Candidates must recertify by re-taking the credentialing exam every 5 years. The exam is mailed directly to the candidate and he/she takes it in a completely unsecure, un-proctored environment.
- This practice gave the Credit Affirmation Team significant doubts regarding the validity and reliability of the credentialing exam itself.

6) In addition to the recertification requirements, the candidates must complete NAHP continuing education in order to maintain "membership" in the association. The CEs are used for all of the NAHP technologies and are NOT specific to the Medical Assisting occupation in any way. CEs are only available through the NAHP and have no standardized unit of credit.
- CEs are not graded unless the candidate does not pass
- Candidates must pay membership fees upon completion of their CEs.
- The membership requirement, in addition to the very unsecure recertification methods, led the Credit Affirmation Team to the conclusion that the NAHP seemed to be more of a "for-profit" organization than a legitimate credentialing organization.

7) There is no legislation (state or federal) that requires Medical Assistants to be certified in order to practice; however, the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) have recently implemented the "Meaningful Use Rule" which requires certification of Medical Assistants who use computerized-physician order entry. The Meaningful Use Rule does not specifically exclude any Medical Assistant certifications. The fact that the NRCMA can be used to meet this federal requirement is a top selling point used by the NAHP. It is mentioned several times on their website and was one of the first things mentioned during a phone conversation between a representative of the Credit Affirmation Team and a representative of the NAHP.

In summary, after a thorough review of the NRCMA credential and the NAHP itself, the Health Credit Affirmation Team does not feel that the credential should be assigned any semester credit hours even if used in tandem with a 900 hour Medical Assistant training program. There are three

other credential pathways that students in Ohio may use to earn 30 semester credit hours which are much more appropriate. The NRCMA credentialing exam does not appear to be valid, reliable, or secure. All of the information available regarding the NAHP and its credentialing requirements is outdated and difficult to locate. It took several attempts via phone and email for a Credit Affirmation Team member to get information regarding the credential and even then the information was vague and the representative could not provide any associated documentation. The NAHP appears to be more geared toward providing multiple certifications to their members and the NRCMA credential specifically seems to be a quick fix for employers to meet the federally mandated Meaningful Use Rule. All of the previously stated reasons notwithstanding, the competencies measured by the credentialing exam are not sufficiently reflective of those necessary for a practicing Medial Assistant. In the opinion of the credit affirmation team, the competencies are too broad and the breakdown of the exam is not appropriate for a Medical Assistant certification. The Credit Affirmation Team believes that even with additional program requirements or secondary certifications, the NRCMA credential should not be awarded any credit.